

Peterson, Bobbye

From: Ricky Evans <ricky@rickydsribshack.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:30 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: HB7371 and SB1085

Hi,

Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the public hearing today so I'm sending you my written testimony regarding HB7371 and ~~SB1085~~. As these bills are written I am apposed to both bills.

Between both of these bills I believe the HB7371 is the best but could could be better.

See below some of my concerns.

The way 7371 is written it's interpreted it grants a unimaginably profitable exclusion privilege to a small group who had the ability to pay to play in our predominantly white and wealthy medical marijuana industry. When I hear tightly regulated I interpret that as only folks who have millions of dollars will be able to do business in CT. Opportunities should be open not just to folks who have millions of dollars and who's been in the industry for years but also local minority businesses. Is it ok that a Russian billionaire Boris Jordan from Curaleaf can make millions off selling edibles but someone like myself who's the owner of Ricky D's Rib Shack based in New Haven can't. I pay local and state taxes and I hire local. This doesn't sound fair!

Folks who have been jailed targeted through the decades long failed policy from the "War on Drugs" need to be released and records expunged. It's extremely hypercritical to allow folks to make millions of dollars off the same cannabis that has a countless number of folks locked up majority minorities.

I'm not apposed to allowing folks who cant afford to pay top dollar for cannabis to grow their own at their home in a safe and responsible manner. I believe no more than six plants is fair.

I believe fees structure and process to obtain a liquor permit/license should be consistent with how the alcohol industry is regulated. I just submitted my application to offer craft beer at my restaurant so I'm familiar with the licensing process. Although the process is time consuming and cost money i believe it's fair and understandable. I'd like to see the cannabis licensing fees in CT regulated similar to the alcohol industry.

I appreciate your time and consideration!

Ricky D Evans
Ricky D's Rib Shack